they get reflected in the reduced pooled cost of foodgrain with the FCI.

Economic cost of rice, even with the value cuts, remains much higher than the Central Issue Price. Central Issue Price is fixed by the Govt. conforming to the standards under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and these specifications remain the same for the whole country. In view of this, the amount of quality cuts cannot be passed on to the concerned State/UTs.

Exploitation and discrimination of women workers in unorganised sector

2853. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite all the laws and international conventions regualting condition of workers and their wages, over 90% of the 300 million labour force in the country works in the unorganised sector wherein majority of labour are women;

(b) whether despite a considerable array of regulatory machanisms to protect labour against exploitation, women-workers continue to be exploited and discriminated; and

(c) the specific steps contemplated to do away with gender-discrimination in respect of women workers in the unorganised sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) While no definite data regarding the number of workers in the unorganised sector is available, it is estimated that out of the total labour force of 314.00 million, about 85% is in the unorganised sector. The total number of working women according to 1991 census is 89.76 million of which only 4.12 million women are presently estimated to be in the organised sector.

(b) and (c) The Government have enacted laws to ensure payment of equal wages to man and women. The Minimum Wages Act of 1948 prescribes fixation of equal minimum wages to men and women in different suchedule employments. The Equal Remuneration Act of 1976 provides for equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of a similar nature. The Act extends to the whole of India. Authorities have been appointed at the Central and State level to enforce the provisions of the Act. As regards job security, male and female workers employed in unorganised sector are equally exposed to risk to job security. However, the actions of the employers such as dismisals/terminations whether taken under the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 or otherwise are equally challengeable by both men and women by raising an industrial dispute under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Considering the special problems of the women workers and in order to secure reasonable working conditions for them and to pre-empt their exploitation, several laws have been enacted both by the Central and State Governments such as the Beedi & Cigar workers (Condition or Employment) Act, 1966 wherein there is provison for creches for the benefit of women workers, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 wherein women workers, are to be provided time off for feeding children, and the Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Codition of Service) Act, 1979 wherein separate toilet and washing facilities are to be provided to women workers.

फलों, सब्जियों और फूलों का निर्यात

2854. **श्री ईशदत्त यादव:**
श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान फलों, सब्जियों और फूलों का निर्यात किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी मद-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;